

Expedited Processing:

Under certain conditions you may be entitled to have your request processed on an expedited basis, i.e., within 10 calendar days of the date on which the request was received. However, whenever a FOIA request is expedited for a particular requester, taking that action results in an additional delay for other requesters who are waiting for a response.

The BLM will grant expedited processing upon coordination with the program or action office that holds the requested records if a compelling need is demonstrated. Requesters must indicate a compelling need to the satisfaction of the bureau by indicating that the following circumstances exist:

- 1) The lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual.
- 2) An urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged Federal Government activity if the request is made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information. In most cases, a person primarily engaged in disseminating information will be a representative of the news media. The requested information must be the type of information which has particular value that will be lost if not disseminated quickly, and ordinarily refers to a breaking news story of general public interest. However, information of historical interest only, or information sought for litigation or commercial activities would not qualify, nor would a news media deadline unrelated to breaking news.

Remember the BLM can only expedite requests, or segments of requests, for records over which we have complete control. If we must refer a request to another agency (as in the case of requests for national security classified materials), we will inform you and suggest that you seek expedited review from that agency.

To request expedited processing, you must submit a statement explaining why your request should be expedited. You must certify that this statement is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. The BLM FOIA/State coordinator will notify you as to whether it will grant expedited processing within 10 calendar days of receipt of their request. If the request is granted, we will process it as quickly as possible. If expedited processing is denied, we will notify you in writing providing the basis for the denial and a statement that the denial of expedited processing may be appealed to the FOIA Appeals Officer. If we do not respond to a request for expedited processing within 10 calendar days, you may file an appeal for non response.